



Long Term Care NEWSLETTER

Indiana State Department of Health

ISDH Long Term Care
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In Today's Special Issue:

- Older Americans Month
- National Nursing Home Week
- National Nurses Week

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older citizens have enriched our
Nation through their character,
wisdom, and love."*

President George W. Bush

Good Afternoon,

Today is a special edition of the Indiana State Department of Health's Long Term Care Newsletter. This issue is dedicated to recognizing the contributions and accomplishments of senior citizens and our long term care providers. In this issue we celebrate Older Americans Month, National Nursing Home Week, and National Nurses Week.

We first recognize Indiana's senior citizens for their contributions and accomplishments. As our population ages, we are reminded of the many past and continuing contributions of this most important generation of Hoosiers. We thank them for their service and dedication to securing and advancing the lives of all Hoosiers. Commemorating this month is a proclamation from President Bush on Older Americans Month.

This week we are also celebrating National Nursing Home Week and National Nurses Week. The sponsoring organizations provide many resources and ideas for activities intended to celebrate the lives of senior citizens. This is also an opportunity to recognize the many health care providers for their service and contributions to long term care.

The Indiana State Department of Health extends its best wishes to our senior citizens and health care providers. We hope that you will join with us in celebrating the lives and achievements of those individuals residing in nursing homes and those individuals who have made significant contributions to improving quality of care.

Terry Whitson
Assistant Commissioner



THE WHITE HOUSE
PRESIDENT
GEORGE W. BUSH

For Immediate Release
Office of the Press Secretary
April 23, 2008

Older Americans Month, 2008

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

During Older Americans Month, we recognize the many ways older citizens have enriched our Nation through their character, wisdom, and love.

Our country remains strong because of the foundation our elders have helped lay. This year's Older Americans Month theme, "Working Together for Strong, Healthy, and Supportive Communities," highlights the importance of building partnerships to ensure that older Americans are able to live with dignity and independence.

Every week thousands of older Americans give back to their communities by volunteering through groups like Senior Corps. From teaching young children how to read, to helping provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, seniors play an important and compassionate role in our Nation.

My Administration is dedicated to ensuring that our seniors are treated with the respect they have earned. They deserve to have choices and access to the best possible health care, so we have added new preventive care measures and prescription drug benefits as part of our effort to modernize Medicare and make medication more affordable. In this way and many others, our country honors our elders' legacy and recognizes their countless contributions to our Nation.

America's seniors provide an example for younger generations, and during Older Americans Month, we reflect on their efforts toward building a stronger and brighter future for all. Our country remains forever in their debt, as they have provided a guiding light for the rest of the Nation to follow.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2008 as Older Americans Month. I commend older Americans for the many contributions they have made and continue to make to our Nation. I also commend the Federal, State, local, and tribal organizations, service and health care providers, caregivers, and volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to our seniors. I encourage all citizens to honor their elders, care for those in need, and reaffirm our country's commitment to older Americans this month and throughout the year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

GEORGE W. BUSH



National Nursing Home Week

May 11-17, 2008

National Nursing Home Week begins on Mother's Day, May 11, 2008 and continues through May 17, 2008. The American Health Care Association (AHCA) established the week-long celebration in 1967. Activities are designed to foster intergenerational relationships, collect and preserve patient's reminiscences, strengthen relationships with family members, celebrate quality, and recognize all staff members who demonstrate excellent care giving. For information about National Nursing Home Week and suggested activities, visit the [National Nursing Home Week Web Site](#).

The Indiana State Department of Health takes this opportunity to thank nursing homes and their many healthcare providers for their service to Hoosiers. Long term care is a challenging field requiring dedication, education, and passion. The willingness of health care professionals to commit to this challenge is commendable. We thank nursing homes and their staffs for providing quality care to a most important population - Indiana's senior citizens.



National Nurses Week

May 6-12, 2008

The work of America's 2.9 million registered nurses to save lives and maintain the health of millions of individuals is the focus of this year's National Nurses Week. National Nurses Week is devoted to highlighting the diverse ways in which registered nurses are working to improve health care. From bedside nursing in hospitals and long term care facilities to the offices of primary care physicians to the halls of research institutions, the depth and breadth of the nursing profession is meeting the expanding health care needs of Hoosiers. This week, join with the Indiana State Department of Health in recognizing and celebrating the contributions and accomplishments of Indiana's nurses.

National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from National Nurses Day on May 6 through International Nurses Day on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. The American Nurses Association was founded in 1896. National Nurses Week is believed to have been first observed in 1954. Since 1965, the International Council has celebrated "International Nurse Day". In 1974, the International Council of Nurses proclaimed May 12 to be International Nurse Day. National Nurses Week was first officially proclaimed in 1974 by President Nixon. For information on National Nurses Week activities, go to the [American Nurses](#)

[Association National Nurses Week Site.](#)

On behalf of the State Health Commissioner, I recognize and celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of nurses. Nursing is a vital part of long term care. The nursing care provided in nursing homes, residential care facilities, home health services, hospitals, and physician offices comprises a significant and important component of our health care system. Geriatric nursing is a challenging discipline that requires higher levels of knowledge and abilities. Nurses truly make a difference every day and nowhere is that more evident than long term care. The Indiana State Department of Health takes this opportunity to thank Hoosier nurses for their dedication in providing quality care to Indiana citizens.

I would be remiss today if I did not also recognize our nurses at the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH). The ISDH has 114 nurses in the Division of Long Term Care and 23 nurses in the Division of Acute Care. Their contributions are important to ensuring and promoting quality of care. Our nurses provide extensive nursing experience and education and contribute significantly to the principles of patient safety and care coordination. They serve as health care facility surveyors, quality assurance reviewers, program directors, and educators. Their willingness to provide this important public service in support of Indiana's health care system is appreciated. The ISDH also has numerous other nurses working in health promotion programs. They play an important role towards improving the health of Hoosiers. Finally, our Deputy State Health Commissioner, Mary Hill, RN, is a nurse and likely the first nurse to serve in that position. Among her many areas of expertise, Mary worked as a certified nurse aide and, after graduating from nursing school, worked as a geriatric psychiatric nurse. Her nursing experience is a benefit to the agency in advancing state health initiatives.

Best wishes and thanks to all Hoosier nurses.